

IN THE TRIAL COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT FAIRBANKS

IN THE MATTER OF:

RURAL COURT TRIALS AND
HEARINGS WITHOUT SOCIAL
DISTANCING

Presiding Judge's Administrative Order
22-04

**PRESIDING JUDGE'S ORDER ALLOWING FOR TRIALS AND HEARINGS IN
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT RURAL COURT LOCATIONS¹ WITHOUT SOCIAL
DISTANCING**

Effective immediately, the rural courts across the fourth judicial district will no longer be required to adhere to social distancing measures,² as authorized by C.J. Order 8387.³ Trials and hearings may proceed in these locations without social distancing, even when the CDC community map tool or DHSS alert information shows rural courts as higher alert areas. If there is a known outbreak in a community, the trial judge will balance the public health and safety needs of community and trial participants with those of the needs of specific case.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 13th Day of April, 2022 at Bethel, Alaska.

Distributed via email:

Chief Justice
Administrative Director
4th District ACA
4th District RCAs
Fairbanks COC
Bethel COC


Terrence Haas, Presiding Judge

¹ The rural courts in the Fourth Judicial District include: Aniak, Delta Junction, Emmonak, Fort Yukon, Galena, Hooper Bay, Nenana, and Tok.

² This relaxation of social distancing requirements is subject to change if there is local guidance or additional orders requiring a more restrictive approach in a particular rural court location.

³ CJ Order 8387, page 3, paragraph 7, states "For an individual court location, the presiding judge may use relevant local data to make a decision regarding mask and social distancing requirements that may be different than the CDC community level map tool or DHSS alert information provides."

⁴ When Alaska DHSS Case Rates are in the higher alert categories and strict social distancing is not implemented, other pandemic mitigation factors may be reinstated, including, but not limited to: required face mask coverings, Plexiglas barriers, sanitizing supplies, and voluntary covid-19 testing.